

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

291406Z Mar 01

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00	DS-00
	EB-00	FAAE-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	PM-00	ACE-00	SSO-00	SS-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/003W		
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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8531  
INFO NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
RWANDA COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 001168

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR JENDAYI FRAZER  
LONDON FOR CHARLES GURNEY  
PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/29/11

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MOPS](#) [MCAP](#) [ZI](#) [CG](#)

SUBJECT: KABILA'S BRIEF VISIT TO ZIMBABWE FOCUSES ON DRC  
COMMERCIAL TIES TO THE ZANU-PF GOVERNMENT

REF: HARARE 1131

CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EARL M. IRVING FOR  
REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

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1. (C) ON MARCH 28, POLOFF OBTAINED A READOUT ON DRC  
PRESIDENT JOSEPH KABILA'S TWO-DAY VISIT TO HARARE FROM  
THE MFA'S PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (PAO) ON THE  
DRC, MAXWELL CHIKOROWONDO. REGARDING KABILA'S ADDRESS  
TO PARLIAMENT (REFTEL), THE PAO NOTED THAT KABILA IS  
"PREPARED TO GO THE FULL MILE FOR PEACE" IN THE DRC, BUT  
CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT THE "AGGRESSOR STATES" WITHDRAW  
FROM DRC TERRITORY BEFORE THE ALLIES DO. HE ALSO NOTED  
KABILA'S STATEMENT THAT SADC'S DECISION TO SEND TROOPS  
TO THE DRC WAS A UNANIMOUS ONE.

2. (C) CHIKOROWONDO REPORTED THAT KABILA HELD A "LONG"  
ONE-ON-ONE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MUGABE, BUT THAT HE  
WAS NOT PRIVY TO WHAT WAS DISCUSSED. KABILA ALSO MET  
WITH TRANSPORT MINISTER SWITHUN MOMBESHORA AND LANDS AND  
AGRICULTURE MINISTER JOSEPH MADE (BUT NOT THE FULL  
CABINET) TO DISCUSS "BILATERAL ISSUES IN THEIR  
RESPECTIVE FIELDS." KABILA HELD A BREAKFAST MEETING  
WITH "NEARLY EVERY PROMINENT ZIMBABWEAN BUSINESSMAN,"  
ACCORDING TO THE MFA OFFICIAL. KABILA REPORTEDLY  
ENCOURAGED ZIMBABWEAN INDUSTRY TO INCREASE ITS ALREADY  
SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN THE DRC AND DISCUSSED WAYS IN  
WHICH IT COULD HAPPEN.

3. (C) POLOFF ASKED CHIKOROWONDO TO COMMENT ON THE  
PRESS ITEM QUOTING A MONUC REPORT THAT STATED THE ALLIED  
FORCES HAD NOT BEGUN TO WITHDRAW FROM THE DRC FRONTLINES  
AS THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO. CHIKOROWONDO STATED THAT THE  
MONUC REPORT IN QUESTION WAS FROM THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF  
THE DISENGAGEMENT PROCESS THAT BEGAN IN MID-MARCH. THE  
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REPORT HAS SINCE BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS AS THE ALLIED  
FORCES ARE WITHDRAWING ON SCHEDULE, AND WILL COMPLETE  
THEIR 15 KM PULLBACK IN KATANGA BY THE MARCH 29  
DEADLINE, THE PAO ASSERTED. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT  
INITIALLY THERE HAD BEEN SOME CONFUSION OVER THE  
WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES FROM PWETO, BUT THAT HAS SINCE BEEN  
RESOLVED. MONUC HAS YET TO CONFIRM THE PULLBACK OF  
BEMBA'S FORCES IN EQUATEUR, PROBABLY BECAUSE BEMBA HAS  
NOT YET GIVEN THE ORDER TO WITHDRAW, CHIKOROWONDO ADDED.

4. (C) COMMENT: KABILA'S VISIT TO ZIMBABWE APPEARED TO  
HAVE HAD THREE MAIN OBJECTIVES: 1) TO THANK ZIMBABWE FOR  
ITS INTERVENTION IN THE DRC, 2) TO ASSUAGE ZIMBABWEAN  
CONCERNS ABOUT ITS CONTINUED PARTICIPATION, AND MOST  
IMPORTANT, 3) TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC LINKAGES BETWEEN  
THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT KABILA WOULD  
SPEND A LARGE BLOCK OF HIS LIMITED TIME HERE CONSULTING  
WITH MINISTERS WITH EXTRACTIVE-SECTOR PORTFOLIOS AND THE  
INDIGENOUS BUSINESS COMMUNITY. ACCORDING TO OUR  
CONTACTS, THE CEO OF METROPOLITAN BANK, WHO IS ALSO A  
MEMBER OF THE INDIGENOUS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, HOSTED

THE BREAKFAST MEETING. IT INVOLVED ONLY MEMBERS WITH  
STRONG TIES TO ZANU-PF, AND NO MEMBERS OF THE WHITE  
BUSINESS COMMUNITY ATTENDED. THESE MEETINGS, COUPLED  
WITH THE OVER-THE-TOP RECEPTION OF PRESIDENT KABILA BY  
PUTTING HIM ON THE SAME PLANE AS NELSON MANDELA,  
UNDERScore THE GOZ'S MAIN PURPOSE FOR ITS COSTLY  
INVOLVEMENT IN THE DRC. END COMMENT.

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